

## IN NEIGHBORS COMMUNITIES

## NEIGHBORS

## GET UP AND GO!

## GARY

**Brothers' Keeper first fun-fund walk-athon:** Brothers' Keeper will have its first 3K fun-fund walk-athon at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 22, at 15th Avenue and Madison Street. Registration starts at 7 a.m., followed by opening remarks and warmup at 7:30. Vendors are needed. For more information, call 882-8389 or 944-9695, or Brothers' Keeper at 882-4459.

## GARY

**Fashion show and hair competition:** The John Will Anderson Boys & Girls Club of Gary will host its annual fashion show and hair competition from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday at the Genesis Convention Center, 4th Avenue and Broadway. Call Al Dixon at 805-6212 or Suzette Raggs at 881-4730 to find out how to make the annual fundraiser a success.

## GARY

**Fish fry:** The women of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 1831 Virginia St., will have their annual spring fish fry, featuring catfish, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Donation is \$8.



**James Wallace**, president of the local Student African American Brotherhood chapter, mows grass at a vacant home along 35th Avenue in Gary. Every year, the group cuts grass, cleans alleys and picks up debris around the city. This year, they worked along 35th from Broadway to Martin Luther King Drive. — LESLIE ADKINS/POST-TRIBUNE

# Caring for the community

## Student group adopts Gary cleanup as Earth Day activity

BY LISA DENEAL

Post-Tribune correspondent

**F**or the second year, members of the Student African American Brotherhood chapter at Indiana University Northwest and Ivy Tech Community College donned work gloves and picked up garbage bags and rakes Saturday for their annual Earth Day cleanup.

This year, they concentrated on 35th Avenue between the IUN and the Ivy Tech campuses in Gary.

SAAB was founded in 1990 and has more than 200 chapters at colleges and universities, high schools and middle schools in 39 states. The group's purpose is to increase the number of African-American and Latino men graduating from college by creating a positive peer commu-

nity. Its members are encouraged to excel academically, socially, culturally, spiritually and in the community.

Students from the IUN and Ivy Tech campuses, plus volunteers from the community, spent the day picking up debris and junk along 35th Avenue from Broadway to Martin Luther King Drive.

SAAB president and IUN graduate James Wallace of Evanston, Ill., said SAAB has 50 members, and most participated in the cleanup.

"The members are also students at either Ivy Tech or IUN," Wallace said, "and we are a pretty racially diverse group, despite the organization's title having 'African American' (in it). It is also about brotherhood."

He added that along with Ivy Tech and IUN's participation, the city of Gary helped with dumpsters and extra equipment.

"The Weed and Seed program contributed and also had volunteers come," he said, "and others decided to join us."

IUN student Darin Dunham of Gary is the chairman of SAAB's community service committee. He said he always has been active in community service with fellow SAAB members.

"I've coached for Biddy Basketball and, when the 2008 flood happened, we cleaned out the basements of homes of the elderly in our city," Dunham said. "SAAB exposes students to what is needed in the community, and community service

is a valid need."

SAAB member and IUN student Jeremy Blake, 19, of Valparaiso said he joined the group two years ago and is chairman of the academic committee.

"It feels good to do the cleanup in this area, and the residents appreciate it, too," he said. "We have had residents come out and do yard work when they see us, and one neighbor gave us cold drinks."

Jason Arndt, a student at Ivy Tech's Gary campus, said he brought three of his children to help clean up.

"I participated in the cleanup last year," he said. "It is our responsibility as people to keep the land clean. This is God's Earth, his creation, and we should take care of it."

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JEREMY BLAKE OF VALPARAISO, A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT AFRICAN AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD, HELPING TO CLEAN UP ALONG 35TH AVENUE IN GARY.

## EAST CHICAGO

**Vendors, entertainment sought:** I Too Sing America Organization of Northwest Indiana is looking for vendors, vocalists, bands, clean rappers, dancers and comedians for its third annual National Black Music Heritage Parade and Festival. The event will run from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at Washington Park in East Chicago. Vocalists and bands are requested to submit a CD or tape to ITSA, 3901 Guthrie St., East Chicago, IN 46312. For vendor information, call Tia at 902-9413 or Stacy at 397-3734. For entertainment information, call Dianna at 455-8230.

## VALPARAISO

**Medicare update:** Paul Sciarra of Bartholomew & Son will discuss the new Medicare changes at 1 p.m. Friday at Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta, 605 Beech St. To register, call 462-1301 or 883-1800.